ABOUT THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION’S
STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW
AND NATIONAL SECURITY

The Standing Committee on Law and National Security is the oldest Committee in the ABA. Since 1962, the Committee has sustained an unwavering commitment to educating the Bar and the public on the importance of the rule of law in preserving the freedoms of democracy and our national security. Founded by then-ABA President and later Supreme Court Justice Lewis J. Powell, the Committee focuses on legal aspects of national security with particular attention to issues raised by legal responses to terrorist events. The Committee conducts studies, sponsors programs and administers working groups on law and national security-related issues to serve members and the profession. The Committee’s website is www.americanbar.org/natsecurity. The Standing Committee is proud to include in its ranks, members who have served as Senators and Representatives, Director of Central Intelligence, Secretary of the Army, Deputy Secretary of Labor, ambassadors, legal advisers to the Department of State and National Security Council, general counsels to the Department of Defense, Central Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, several military services, and key congressional committees; and a diverse range of prominent scholars from the nation’s preeminent law schools.

The Standing Committee provides research and advice on a variety of subjects including: the restructuring of the intelligence community; cybersecurity; the legal system’s ability to cope with transnational terrorism; economic threats, espionage, and organized crime in a borderless world; the role of the intelligence community in law enforcement; operational international law in the conduct of the military; and the role of law in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

From its inception, the Standing Committee has pursued its objectives through a diverse program of scholarship, conferences, workshops, and publications. One measure of the Committee’s effectiveness is the rapid growth of national security law courses in recent years of the field it pioneered. Today, almost all of the nation’s accredited law schools have one or more offerings in this field. The Committee also sponsors an Annual Review of National Security Law Conference each fall, a Student Writing Competition, Women in National Security programs, Teacher Training Workshops and several careers in national security law events held throughout the year.

The Standing Committee is a founding member of the ABA’s Cybersecurity Legal Task Force. Please visit the ABA Cybersecurity Legal Task Force website—www.ambar.org/cyber—for details on the many ABA cyber initiatives.